

**WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION  
JULY 2, 2007**

**Present:** Waldo County Commissioners John M. Hyk, Chairman, Amy R. Fowler and Donald P. Berry, Sr. Also present were Attorney Linda McGill of Bernstein Shur, Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth and County Clerk Barbara Arseneau.

J. Hyk opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry, Sr. seconded going into Executive Session in accordance with M.R.S.A. Title 1, 405 E at 10:02 a.m. Unanimous.**

VillageSoup reporter Jay Davis inquired of the nature of the Executive Session and was told by Attorney McGill that it is for the purpose of reviewing the rights and responsibilities of the County Commissioners regarding labor law.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry, Sr. seconded exiting Executive Session at 11:29 a.m. Unanimous.**

**DISTRICT COURTHOUSE LEASE:**

After brief discussion regarding State Court Administrator James T. Glessner's counter-offer for the 2007-2013 lease to be a 4% increase for six years, the County Commissioners voted as follows:

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry, Sr. seconded accepting the State's proposal of 4% increase each year for all six years of the renewed lease between the County of Waldo and the Administrative Office of the Courts. Unanimous.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Present for this report was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau:**

1. **PROBATIONARY PERIOD UPDATE:** B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that after consultation with Attorney Kate Debevoise of Bernstein Shur, the vote taken by the Commissioners during their previous Court Session to extend the probationary period of County Dispatchers to one year was not legal according to Federal law. The law provides for only a six-month probationary period with the exception of law enforcement officers.

**\*\*D. Berry, Sr. moved, A. Fowler seconded to rescind the previous vote to extend the probationary period for County Dispatchers and for it to return to being six-months in length. Unanimous.**

2. According to a memo sent by Penobscot County Administrator William Collins, the Maine Revenue Service has sent a letter to the Maine Registries of Deeds requesting that they waive the online subscription fee so that the Maine Revenue Service can

research their records online for free. It was further noted that a few towns had also asked for a “break” but most towns thought it was a good deal because they didn’t have to send someone down to the registry for days at a time, so no offer was made to offer the towns a “break” on the fee. W. Collins was of the understanding that the registrars were conferring on this matter, but declared that it was not their decision to make. W. Collins was conferring with the County Commissioners and recommended that the decision be a “strong No.” He felt that all Counties should be consistent with this. He noted, “The state charges us \$100.00 a day if we send an inmate to DOC, and yet they want us to offer our services for free.” B. Arseneau informed the Commissioners that Waldo County Registrar Deloris Page was aware of this request for the fees to be waived and was not in favor of it.

3. Monroe citizen Randi Gallagher has a request, along with documents, that the County Commissioners be made aware that she has sent the checks back that the Town and returned to her in which she had attempted to pay her taxes to the Town of Monroe, certified mail. The Town had sent the checks back because she felt that the amounts were correct and that she should not be charged interest after May 9, 2007, as this is the original date that she sent these checks to the Town of Monroe. She was forwarding Commissioner Fowler a copy of the letter explaining this to the Town of Monroe, so that the Commissioners would be aware of the payment. A. Fowler explained that the oldest taxes must be paid first and that the date may have been incorrect. She explained that this was not a matter for the County Commissioners.

4. Corrections Officer Hillary Szteliga has resigned from her position as full-time Corrections Officer at the Waldo County Correctional Facility. Her last date of employment will be July 6, 2007.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry, Sr. seconded accepting with regret the resignation of Hillary Szteliga. Unanimous.**

5. Following a selections process, Sheriff Scott Story sent a memo recommending Christopher Albert for promotion to Shift Supervisor with the title of “Corporal,” filling the vacancy left by former employee Monica Brown, effective July 22, 2007 at \$16.35 per hour.

**\*\*A. Fowler moved, D. Berry, Sr. seconded accepting the promotion of Corrections Officer Christopher Albert to Shift Supervisor. Unanimous.**

6. The Sears Island Joint Use Committee will be meeting July 11, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Searsport Town Office, Union Hall.

7. The Waldo County Commissioners have been invited to attend LEPC meetings any time. Hope Bartlett of the Waldo EMA had requested the Commissioners addresses so that she could invite them to each meeting. The County Commissioners agreed that EMA Director Dale Rowley was doing an outstanding job and they were confident that the Commissioners were not really needed at most LEPC meetings, but one would attend from time-to-time.

8. B. Arseneau received a request from FY 2007 Budget Committee Chairman Bill Sneed that the budget meetings start early this year as they had last year, which was about the first week in October in order to be done long before the Christmas Holiday, rather than finishing up "sometime between Christmas and New Year's. The Commissioners agreed to start the budget process as early as possible.

9. Ariel White of the Clean Beaches Council wrote to commend the Commissioners for their recent proclamation of Waldo County's support of Clean Beaches and thanked them for this support.

10. The Maine Development Foundation (MDF) is accepting nominations for the 2007 "Champions of Economic Development" awards. The Commissioners had no recommendations at this time.

11. The Maine County Commissioners Association has sent out the 2007 Convention Registration and Agenda. B. Arseneau encouraged the Commissioners to figure out if they were attending or not and to return the completed registration forms to her as soon as possible.

Members of the press queried the County Commissioners regarding the nature and details of the Executive Session. J. Hyk stated that none of the County Commissioners had any comments regarding that session, as it would not be appropriate to discuss it.

**\*\*D. Berry, Sr. moved, A. Fowler seconded adjourning the meeting at 11:46 a.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by Barbara L. Arseneau  
Waldo County Clerk